

## Message Text

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14

ACTION IO-11

INFO OCT-01 AGR-05 AID-05 EB-07 EUR-12 COME-00 ISO-00

TRSE-00 FEA-01 CEA-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 FRB-03 H-02

INR-07 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

CIEP-01 SS-15 STR-04 ITC-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02

OMB-01 /104 W

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R 041847Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5566

AMEMBASSY LONDON

INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY CALCUTTA

AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

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FODAG

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: FAO, EAGR

SUBJECT: PREPARATORY MEETINGS IN PREPARATION FOR POSSIBLE INTERNATIONAL TEA AGREEMENT.

REF: (A) NEW DELHI 1529; (B) ROME 1045.

1. FAO EXPERT, DR. VITON, IS FOLLOWING CLOSELY EFFORTS TO NEGOTIATE A POSSIBLE TEA AGREEMENT. VITON, HOWEVER, UNDERSTOOD THAT SRI LANKA EFFORT TO HOLD MINISTERIAL MEETING OF TEA EXPORTING COUNTRIES HAD BEEN SCRAPPED IN FACE OF INDIAN DOUBTS AND AFRICAN OPPOSITION. INSTEAD, TEAM WOULD GO TO AFRICA TO DISCUSS TEA AGREEMENT.

2. UK, FOLLOWING UP ON COMMONWEALTH CONFERENCE COMMODITY PROPOSALS,  
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HAS BEEN ACTIVELY PUSHING TEA AGREEMENT WHICH WOULD STABILIZE AND

HOPEFULLY INCREASE PRICES. PROPOSALS' GOALS HAVE BEEN SUPPORTED, BUT SUCCESS DOUBTED BY ALL EXCEPT SRI LANKA. A MEETING OF COMMONWEALTH TEA PRODUCERS WAS TO BE CALLED IN UK IN LONDON IN LATE FEBRUARY OR EARLY MARCH 1976.

3. FAO HAS FINALLY RESCHEDULED ITS INTERGOVERNMENTAL GROUP ON TEA FOR APRIL 20-30. ACTUALLY SCHEDULE IS BROKEN DOWN INTO THREE DISTINCT MEETINGS; APRIL 20-23 MEETING OF TEA EXPORTING COUNTRIES, APRIL 26 MEETING OF TEA PROMOTION AGENCY, AND APRIL 27-30 FAO INTERGOVERNMENTAL GROUP ON TEA. RESULTS OF FIRST TWO MEETINGS ARE EXPECTED TO BE CHIEF ITEMS FOR FAO TEA GROUP MEETING.

4. DURING FAO JUTE MEETING IN JANUARY 1976, INDIAN AND BANGLADESH REPS BOTH REFERRED TO THE DRAFT TEA PROMOTION AGREEMENT AND ITS INGENIOUS VOTING FORMULA AS A POSSIBLE COMPROMISE TO THE PROBLEM OF WEIGHTED VOTING.

5. ACTION: FAO HAS REQUESTED CONFIRMATION OF SCHEDULE OF PREPARATORY TEA MEETINGS TO FAO MEETINGS LISTED ABOVE AND SUGGESTED MICHAEL MADDEN, UK MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, AS HAVING LATEST INFORMATION.

6. COMMENT: USG SHOULD CONSIDER SUPPORT OF TEA AGREEMENT IN LINE WITH CONSIDERATION OF COMMODITY AGREEMENTS COMMODITY BY COMMODITY. PERISHABLE NATURE OF TEA, INCREASED AFRICAN PRODUCTION, EXPORT SURPLUS, AND MANAGEABLE SIZE OF MARKET MAKE THIS POSSIBLE CANDIDATE FOR SUPPORT AND WOULD HELP USG ANSWER UNCTAD'S INTEGRATED PROGRAM FOR COMMODITIES. PRODUCERS ARE NOT IN ACCORD ON PRODUCTION OR EXPORT QUOTAS SO AGREEMENT MIGHT BE LIMITED TO GENTLEMEN'S AGREEMENT ON INDICATIVE PRODUCER EXPORT PRICE OF UNPROCESSED TEA AS THERE IS FOR RAW JUTE. THIS COULD BE COUPLED WITH TEA PROMOTION AGENCY WITH LIMITED RESEARCH AND MARKET INTELLIGENCE SERVICES AGAIN AS IS PROPOSED FOR JUTE. VOLPE

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Concepts:** TEA, EXPORTERS, TRADE AGREEMENTS, MEETINGS  
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**Disposition Authority:** morefirh  
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**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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**TAGS:** EAGR, FAO  
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